



# FAIRHOPE

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
The Gathering: December 20, 2020

GATHERING MUSIC

*Linus and Lucy*  
*Feliz Navidad*

Dena White

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

"WALKING LIGHT" THIS CHRISTMAS ~ *Video*

OPENING SONG

*Light of the World*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Fitzhughs: Rick & Shelly

RESPONSE

**Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season.  
As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination.  
Show us the creative power of hope.  
Magnify your love within us.  
Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared.  
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.  
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ.  
Amen.**

*Let us sing together:*

***I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the sun to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.  
In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.***

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

SONGS OF THE SEASON

*Angels We Have Heard on High*  
*Go, Tell it on the Mountain*  
*Joy, Unspeakable Joy*  
*Little Drummer Boy*

OFFERING

*Breath of Heaven*

Dena White

SOME THOUGHTS ON WALKING LIGHT

Rev. Laura Parker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, THE LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING FORTH

CLOSING SONG

*Joy to the World*

*Assisting in Worship Today:* Rev. Laura Parker

*Music:* Shea White and Praise Band *Acolyte:* Max McClellan

*Media and Sound:* Robert Hammon, Jamie Waldhour, Amelia Koser



## POINSETTIAS...

### **In memory of:**

Our mothers by Robby and Katie Roberson

Jim Lee by his family

Vicki Dowden, mother of Dr. Craig Dowden, by The Dowden Family

Gary Dowden, father of Dr. Craig Dowden, by The Dowden Family

Patricia Sagan Wilkins and other loved ones by Peggy Sagan

Louise and Bill Estes by John, Kim, Erica and Olivia Estes

James and Marie Lafferty by Kristine Lafferty

The Berkley Family by Kristine Lafferty

John Boteler by Susan Boteler and family

Dona Nelson by George Nelson

Travis and Margie Fralicks by Kevin and Lucie Fralicks

James and Lucie Aldridge by Kevin and Lucie Fralicks

Helen Frances Laws Ryals by Lynn Ryals White

Nettie Sue DaPra by Mike White

Ross and Lucille Briscoe by Mike White

Barbara G. Robertson, Florence Roberts, Doug Roberts, Betty Vilian by Wendy Robertson

Edward and Helen McKnight and Edward McKnight Jr. by Marion McKnight

Charles P. Searce, Jr. by Charles Searce

### **In honor of:**

Our mothers, Jean Smith and Rita Higbee, by Linda and Bobby Smith

Alma Wynn by Robert and Liz Coleman

Len and Pam Turner by Lee and Katie Turner and family

Yvonne Cox by Katie Turner

Joan Roberts by Katie Turner

FUMC Church Family and All Medical Personnel and First Responders by Dr. Ann Pearson

Alicia Searcy by Stephen and the boys

Our granddaughters: Emilia, Lucy, Lily, Jayne, Anna Claire and Ashlee by Lee and Sandy Frailie

Ann Pearson by Larry and Betty Stejskal and family

Discovery Sunday School Class by Don and Carol Danforth

Bill and Ann Calhoun "Pappy and Meme" by their family



Fairhope United Methodist Church  
Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ December 20, 2020  
A Christmas Story Order of Service  
Traditional Worship

Prelude                      *A Holst Christmas* (arr. by Wagner)                      Christmas Celebration Orchestra

Welcome

THE BIDDING PRAYER \*

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas,  
let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning.  
Let us hear in our carols and hymns,  
that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled.  
Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,  
will bring all peoples and all things  
into the glory of God's eternal kingdom.  
But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves,  
for those who have not heard the good news of God,  
or who do not believe it;  
for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death;  
and for the Church in this place and everywhere,  
that it may be freed from all evil and fear,  
and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God,  
in the words that Christ himself taught us.

The Lord's Prayer

*Once In Royal David's City*

Congregation/Orchestra

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;  
Mary, loving mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.  
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.*

*Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day, like us he grew;  
he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.*

*And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.*

Anthem *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (arr. by DeFord)  
Carolyn Kidd, soloist

Advent Reading  
8:30 ~ The Hammock Family 9:45 ~ The O'Connell Family 11:00 ~ The Robinson Family

Anthem *For Unto Us* (arr. by Drennan)

Anthem *Lo, How a Rose* (arr. by Rouse)

Offering

Dear Lord, you are the only wise God! Thank you for your faithfulness through the ages. You spoke promises through the prophets. In time, you revealed your glory in Jesus Christ. Strengthen us in faith to follow your will today. Empower us to tell our neighbors about you. May these offerings support the ways our church exhibits your steadfast love for all generations.  
Amen. (Romans 16)

Anthem *Gabriel's Message* (arr. by Goeller)  
Jenna Hood & Natalie Woodrow, soloists

Doxology

Anthem *The Friendly Beasts* (arr. by Hopson)  
Emery Capstraw, Markolee Christie, Alivia & Annie Mae Dowden & Colin Richardson, Soloists

Anthem *Do You Hear What I Hear* (arr. by Crocker)

Anthem *The First Noel* (arr. by Forrest)  
Women's Ensemble

Anthem *Holy Night, Silent Night* (arr. by Schram)

Carol *Joy to the World* Congregation/Orchestra

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, and wonders of his love.*

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING \*

*May the Christ who by his Incarnation  
gathered into One things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.  
Go forth in peace and joy.  
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!*

**Assisting in Worship Today:**

Rev. Darren M. McClellan, Rev. Ontonio Christie, Rev. Laura Parker

Music: Tom Hood, John Richardson

**Celebration Choir:**

Lucie Fralicks, Carrie French, Susan Grace,

Jenna Hood, Sonny James, Carolyn Kidd

Marion McKnight, Mary Parsons

Warren Waters, Natalie Woodrow

**Orchestra Members:**

Violins ~ Andrés Aleán & Laura Morris

Viola ~ Julia Marks

Cello ~ Stephanie Calhoun

Horn ~ Robyn Koser

Oboe ~ Amelia Koser

Flute ~ Celeste Boone

**Acolytes:** (8:30) Elliot Determann, (9:45) Jackson Strunk (11:00) Hackett Robertson

**Media and Sound:** Jamie Waldour, Kaitlyn Hunter, Robert Hammon, Ann Lyles Tapscott

**Holiday Office Hours: Monday - Friday**

The church office will be accessible 9am - 1pm but will be closed on December 24, 25, 28 and January 1.

**Christian Life Center Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday**

Open - December 21, 22 & 23 ~ Closed - December 24 & 25

Open - December 28, 29 and 30 - December 31 Closing at 3pm ~ Closed January 1

***In-Person Worship Reservations  
for Sunday, December 27, are open today at 4pm!***

*We are asking those wishing to join us to use the reservation system we have in place to ensure that we keep the attendance to a size that enables a 6 foot physical distance between families. For anyone not able to attend the worship service we will continue to share online through Facebook, YouTube & our website.*

**WORSHIP TIMES:**

**8:30am & 11:00am Traditional (Sanctuary)**

**11:00am *The Gathering* (CLC GYM)**

Make your reservations at <https://www.fairhopeumc.org/worshipreservations/>

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

You must have a reservation for all services that take place in the sanctuary. Currently all slots are filled for the 1:30, 3:00 and 4:15 services and there is a waiting list. The 4:15pm service will be streamed on our website, YouTube and Facebook.

No Reservations are needed for the 5:30pm Service at Halstead Amphitheater or for the 6:45pm Communion on the front lawn.

## Prayers for the People

Medical personnel and first responders

Sympathy:

Kelly and Elizabeth McGriff and family in the death of her mother, Debbie Brown.

## Here is a brief summary of our current stewardship:

Offering Received December 13 - \$45,376  
(Online - \$8,060 ~ Mail/Personal delivery - \$37,316)

*For those of you who would like to bring your offering to the church, we have a mail slot located in the door across from the glass doors in the breezeway entrance of the education building. **YEAR END GIVING NOTE:** According to the IRS, all contributions for 2020 must be received by 1pm on December 31 in the church office or postmarked that date if mailed. Thank you so much for your continued support to Fairhope United Methodist Church. Jeff White, Business Administrator*



### MONDAY MORNINGS IN FAIRHOPE

#### A note from Rev. Laura:

We will continue our devotionals every Monday morning at 9:30 in the new year until we are able to return to more normal gathering routines in the life of our church. This time together lasts about 15-20 minutes and provides an opportunity to see familiar faces and pray together as we begin our week!

### Our holiday schedule:

We will "Zoom" on Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

We will take off Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup>.

We will RESUME "Zoom" on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/98533273696>

## United Methodist Women...

EDITH LAWSON CIRCLE sadly was unable to host our annual "BAKE SALE" this year due to COVID!

Because this is our main fundraiser we will be accepting donations from the membership to help replenish our budget for 2021 so that we may continue to support our favorite missions with our main focus on women and children. No amount is too small! We just appreciate your support as in the past and look forward to hosting another great "Bake Sale" in 2022! Please drop off or mail checks to the church made payable to: FUMC (please write EDITH LAWSON CIRCLE DONATION on the "for line").



**Donations accepted through 12/31/2020**

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES ~ 9:45-10:40 AM ON SUNDAYS**

**NOTE: In-Person Sunday School will not be offered for adults, youth or children on December 27<sup>th</sup> and January 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Foundations & Basics ~ Fellowship Hall**

Parents of children and youth, young couples parenting young children and newly married. These classes will be meeting together through the end of the year. Dr. Darren McClellan is facilitating a discussion of an Advent study by Walter Brueggemann, *Names for the Messiah*. Zoom link is available.

**Pathfinders ~ B210**

Multi-generational class with in-depth Bible study. Facilitated by Linda Smith. Studying the book of Jonah.

**New Beginnings ~ B209**

Adults in their 40s, 50s, 60s. Some retired, some with children in school or college, some with grandchildren. Teaching rotation with a variety of topics. Phil Webb is leading an Advent Study by Andy Stanley, *Who Needs Christmas*.

**Grace and Peace ~ B217**

Adults of varying ages and stages will find open, honest, thoughtful conversation in a place of radical hospitality. Shared leadership facilitating and Advent study by Walter Brueggemann, *Names for the Messiah*. Zoom link available.

**Contact the church for more information about these classes meeting through Zoom:**

**Koinonia**

Adults of varying ages, facilitated by Tony Caminiti; in depth Bible study and other topical studies.

**Friends in Faith**

Retired adults, individuals and couples. Teaching rotation with in depth Bible study.

**Homecoming Class**

Adults 50+, teaching rotation with primary emphasis on Bible study. Current study is on Zechariah. Participants may join from home by Zoom. Contact Brenda Robinson for more information: [bgodbold@hiwaay.net](mailto:bgodbold@hiwaay.net)

**Living Word:**

Ages span several decades and singles and couples faithfully participate. In-depth Bible study facilitated by Doug Garner.

**Not meeting this week:**

**Discovery Class**

*Look for updates!* This is a welcoming group of senior adults, mostly retired, facilitated by Cecil Christenberry.





## ADULT BIBLE STUDIES COMING IN JANUARY...

### *Disciple IV Under the Tree of Life* Facilitated by Dr. Darren McClellan (via Zoom)

Disciple IV is the final study in the four-phase DISCIPLE program and concentrates on Old Testament Writings, the Gospel of John, the Epistles of John, James, Jude, and finally, Revelation. This is the original version – not Fast Track.

*\*\*Prerequisite: Participants must have taken Disciple I (original or Fast Track). Disciple Bible Studies do not need to be taken in order.*

When: Friday afternoons, beginning January 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2-4pm. **ZOOM ONLY**. The Old Testament component (16-weeks) will be taught through the Spring, concluding May 14<sup>th</sup>. Plans now are to teach the New Testament component in the Fall of 2021. We will determine at that time whether or not the NT will be taught by Zoom or in-person.  
Cost: \$45

### *Invitation to John: A Short-Term Disciple Study*

**Facilitated by Barbara Stewart (in-person)**

The invitation from Christ is: "Come and see, Follow me." Experience the magnificent passages in John including the I am statements (I am the truth, the life and the way, I am the living water and more). Revisit stories only told in John's gospel including Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene and the raising of Lazarus.

During the weekly video segments, travel into the Scripture as you hear the Word, experience the grand artwork connected with each story and interview the scholar. Each week wraps up with a small group discussion on video to spark your own conversation.

**\*\*There is no prerequisite for this class.**

When: Wednesday mornings, beginning January 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.  
Will be taught in-person in Wesley Hall with social distancing and masks requested. Twelve weeks concluding March 31<sup>st</sup>. Cost: \$13

Registration for either class: Please email [bobbi.hobbs@fairhopeumc.org](mailto:bobbi.hobbs@fairhopeumc.org) or call the church office to register.



## Caring Ministries...

We are thankful to be the family of God in this Christmas season. Prayers for a peaceful and blessed Christmas season.



### Serving and Blessing Others:

Vases of flowers were taken to Thomas Hospital staff to offer encouragement and love as they work daily to care for others. May we all continue to pray for their stamina, perseverance and good health as they serve our community.

## Children's Ministries...

### SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN ...

All children 3 years old-6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to **Sunday School** from 9:45-10:40am (3 year old birthday must be before 9/1/20). Masks will be worn by teachers and students in our K-6<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Need to find a classroom? Go to [www.fairhopeumc.org](http://www.fairhopeumc.org) under children's ministries or see a greeter on Sunday mornings.

**Note:** Children's Sunday School will not meet on December 27<sup>th</sup> or January 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will resume on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Children ages 3 months-PreK4 can stay in the **Nursery** during our 3 worship services and Sunday School.

Children's Church is not available at this time. Children are seated with their families for the whole service. Take-home **Worship Bags** are available for preschool-2nd grade. Activity bulletins are available for children 3rd-6th grade.

### BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS BAGS

If your family requested a birthday bag, you can pick it up today in the CLC till 12:15pm. Can't get it today? Bags can also be picked up in the church office on Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> - Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9am-1pm.

## Student Ministries...



# DNOW OUTDOOR RETREAT

## Jan 9-10, 2021

**\*Registration form, \*NEW easy online payment and more parent information can be found on the youth page of our church website today!**

- **Where:** Camp Beckwith
- **What:** Tent/ Sleeping Bag
- **When:** January 9th (begins 2:30 pm) thru 10th (ends 1:30 pm)
- **Registration Deadline:** January 2nd
- **How much:** \$75 (Scholarships Available)
- **Who:** 7th -12th

We cannot wait to come together as a community for our outdoor worship, small groups and free time for the 2021 DNOW at Camp Beckwith! Our speaker will be Deon Cossio and our worship band, Yeah, Probably. This reimagined DNOW Retreat is January 9-10 and we will take all necessary precautions to make this a safe event for all students and adults. You will find these details along with participation options for each student in the detailed email you received this past week. When you register your student online, you will get to choose for them to remain on-campus overnight at Camp Beckwith for a camp-out or you may pick-up your student at 9:00 pm and return them by 8:30 am. Please we now have a NEW and easy online payment process for student ministry retreats! For more information, contact [rachael.waldhour@fairhopeumc.org](mailto:rachael.waldhour@fairhopeumc.org).



### Scholarship Application

Scholarship Applications are due January 15, 2021.

Fairhope UMC is privileged to administer scholarships to help prepare leaders for the church, community, and world. These scholarships are awarded to church members whose character and accomplishments make them worthy representatives of FUMC and the individuals whom these grants honor. Scholarships are awarded to students who are actively involved with Fairhope United Methodist Church.

Some scholarships are awarded to an applicant who is preparing for ordained ministry, attending a Methodist college, or pursuing a church related vocation; need based; or other criteria. Numbers and amounts of scholarships will depend on annual availability of funds. This is the time to apply for these scholarships for the 2021-22 academic year. *The deadline for applications is January 15, 2021.* The scholarships are awarded in February. This will position the scholarship winner to apply for matching funds offered through the Methodist conference and by many colleges.

Click the link above for the new online application that can be found on our church website.

### **ARE YOU NEW TO STUDENT MINISTRY?**

All rising 7th grade (student & parent) and new church families with 7th-12th graders are encouraged to connect with us through social media, text messaging reminders, GROUPME for every grade and through our email reminders!


### **Want to get plugged in???**

Follow SALTSTUDENTS:

**Instagram:** @fairhopeumc.youth // **Facebook:** @fhsaltstudents

**Text Message Reminders:** Text the word "Saltstudents" to the number "43506"

Send a quick note to michael.spicer@fairhopeumc.org to be added to our email list or to Groupme for C-Group reminders!



 **FAIRHOPE**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# ART EXHIBIT

**CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER**

FEATURING SEVERAL ARTISTS  
FROM FAIRHOPE UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH.

**ALL ART WILL BE ON SALE!**

Stop by the Christian Life Center Lobby and see the Art Exhibit, featuring artists from our congregation. Steve Pearson, Marcus Smith, Dr. Perri Jacobs, Lisa LaTourette, Barry Baskin, Kristin Capstraw, Shelly Fitzhugh, Alexa Frank, Sarah Grace Hobbs, Kadine Christie, and Antonio Christie.

There will be a special showing on December 18th from 5-7 PM and a final showing on December 23rd from 5-7 PM. Several pieces are available for sale!



# H O W   A R E   W E   S E R V I N G ?

## Angel Tree Christmas Giving

# THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for supporting this outreach this Christmas Season! We are so grateful for your continued support of the children throughout Baldwin County

More info? email [missions@fairhopeumc.org](mailto:missions@fairhopeumc.org)



### Foster Care Outreach:

We are currently working with three foster care families. We received a request from DHR asking for us to help provide the resources so the 4 little girls could have a safe outlet. All 4 girls are in dance or cheer. Our commitment is to help sponsor the girls for current dance/cheer season. This is our second year to provide support for 3 of girls. If you are interested in supporting this outreach, please let me know. We work regularly throughout the year supporting the needs of DHR & CareHouse.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO SERVE  
EMAIL [MISSIONS@FAIRHOPEUMC.ORG](mailto:missions@fairhopeumc.org) OR CONTACT JENNIFER MYRICK  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE!**



Christmas season isn't always about toys or presents or what's under the tree.  
It's about sharing joy, love and family.

Unfortunately, there are children in our communities who have been abandoned, neglected and left without the support they so desperately need. But with your help, we can give them the greatest gifts of all – hope, love and a place to call home.

Mark this season of giving with a donation to the United Methodist Children's Home. Your gift will help us provide homes, love and better opportunities for children in need. It's perhaps the greatest gift you will give this Christmas season. Special offering envelopes are available by the CLC Gym doors & in the Narthex of the sanctuary.